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HONORABLE BAEK DONG SOO

by LEE Jae-Heon

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chapter 36 Divine Blade, Kim Kwang-taek

Kim Kwang-taek

Son of Kim Cho-gun army general of the Suk-jong regime, Kim Kwang-taek lived during the Young-jo monarchy As an adult, he lived in the outskirts of town as a hermit Known as the legendary Divine Blade they say his sword mastery surpassed human abilities The bastard child of a noble father and slave mother he worked as an errand boy in the military serving as Prince Yuan-ying's (Royal Highness, Young-jo) servant but disappearing as soon as Young-jo became king After 33 long years they met again legend has it the sword master hadn't aged since his departure albeit nearing 80 years of age Shortly after he retired into the depths of the mountains never to be seen again

From Seung Jung won's Diary and Yoo Bon hak's Biography of Kim Kwang-taek.

I'm almost at the capital
Has it taken five days to get here?
It's been awhile since I got some time off.
It really takes too long to get to the main house...
HM?

Travelers?
The city is just around the corner, why are they spending the night in the forest?
!

Crown Prince?!
WELL WHAT HAVE WE HERE...
SUCH AN INTENSE FIGHTING SPIRIT.

AN EXE-CUTIONER?
...OR PERHAPS JUST A SCOUT?

Huh...?
!?
What is this? How did I miss?!
He should been cut in half for sure...!?

Let's try again!
챙
챙
챙

ET
WHAT?!
HOO...YOUR FIGHTING SPIRIT IS GRAND INDEED.
I DON'T BELIEVE YOU'RE JUST A MERE SCOUT.
HOWEVER, IF YOU RECKLESSLY EMANATE SUCH AN INSANE AURA, YOU'LL END UP CONSUMING YOURSELF.

WH-WHAT KIND OF TRICKERY ARE YOU TRYING TO DECEIVE ME WITH?!
TRICKERY, YOU SAY...
...SUCH A THING WOULD BE VERY CONVENIENT, IF IT EXISTED.
ㅏ/ㅇ/ㄱ

스

!
흠칫
WOULDN'T YOU AGREE?
덜 덜 덜
GULP

What the hell, this aura...?!
ヲオーラ

I can't move! If I stay like this, I'll be annihilated for sure!!
UAAAAGH!!
EK
OF
BBT

Grand... Master...!!!
No, his abilities are beyond such human expression.
His skills far surpass mere mastery.

I only know of one person in the entire country who achieved such a state,
The only one whose sword achieved divinity unlike any other human,
But could it really be?
The Divine Blade, Kim Kwang-taek!!

There's no way he would have harmed the prince; why then is he so badly wounded...?!
PL...PLEASE STOP...
!
YOUR HIGH-NESS!!

SO YOU BUILT THE FIRE TO KEEP HIS HIGHNESS WARM.
!
IT WAS INEVITABLE.
DO YOU PLAN TO TAKE HIM TO YOUR PLACE?
IT WILL NOT BE AN EASY TASK. PLEASE ALLOW ME TO ASSIST YOU
WELL...

THERE IS NO NEED.
THE PEOPLE DO NOT WISH FOR ME TO LIVE ANYWAY.
AS LONG AS I EXIST, PEOPLE WILL CONTINUE TO SUFFER ON MY ACCOUNT.
PLEASE DON'T SAY SUCH A THING.
IF YOU DISAPPEAR NOW,
WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO OUR VISION?
VISION...
EH...?

LOOKING BACK AT THESE PAST THREE MONTHS...
THE TIME I SPENT IN PYONG-AN WITH YOU ALL WERE THE MOST MEANINGFUL MOMENTS OF MY LIFE.
YOUR HIGHNESS, YOU CAN'T GIVE UP NOW.
WHAT OF ALL OF US WHO BELIEVE IN YOUR DREAM?
BUT... I AM UNABLE TO RETURN TO THE PALACE
!
.....
OF COURSE... YOU HAVE NO SAY IN THAT MATTER, MY PRINCE.

BUT WITH ALL DUE RESPECT...
IS THIS TRULY THE END OF THE ROAD?
WHAT OF YOUR ANCESTOR, WHO FOUNDED *CHO-SON... AND HIS VISION FOR IT TO BECOME THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST NATION...
*CHOSON: THE KOREAN KINGDOM IN POWER FROM 1392-1897
THAT VISION...
I AM UNABLE TO COMPLETE IT.
HOWEVER, IT IS POSSIBLE FOR ANOTHER TO SEE IT THROUGH.

UNFORTUNATELY, THAT PERSON CANNOT BE YOU.
YOU STAND OUT TOO MUCH...
AS THE CAPTAIN OF THE PYONG-AN'S ARMY.
NEVERTHELESS... YOU MAY CHOOSE MY SUCCESSOR.
EH?
THERE WILL BE OTHER REBELS FOLLOWING MY TRACKS TO PYONG-AN.
I WANT YOU TO MAKE THE DECISION AS TO WHO...
IS THE ONE FIT TO CARRY OUT OUR VISION

WITH YOUR ABILITY TO RATIONALIZE AND HISTORY OF GOOD DECISIONS, I HAVE ABSOLUTE FAITH IN YOU.

Did he really just ask us if we've come looking for the prince?
Is he truly still alive?
If so, we absolutely cannot allow others to know.
But why did he first tell us? Could it be a trap...?
I swear to choose a worthy successor to inherit Your Highness' vision...By way of my sword!

백동수 야뇌

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